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BOOK REVIEWS

The Heart of the Railroad Problem. By FRANK PARSONS.
Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1906. 8vo, pp. viii+364.

Professor Parsons has long been known as a vigorous writer upon questions of public policy. His extensive study of railroad literature and his investigation of transportation problems have convinced him that "the heart of the railroad problem lies in the question of the impartial treatment of shippers." The present book is filled with instances of violation of the right of all shippers to impartial treatment, and the evil results of discrimination are shown.

In the first chapter the common and statute law against discrimination are clearly stated. In the next twenty chapters the results of official investigation of the past twenty-five years, showing all forms of discrimination in violation of the law and the fundamental rights of the shippers, are set forth. Nowhere is a more clear and comprehensive summary of the findings against the railways to be had. Both the corrupt and the competitive reasons for discrimination are stated, and sixty-four different forms of evading the law are shown. As a critic of existing conditions the author has done his work well.

In showing the failure of the numerous attempts made in the past to prevent discrimination, Mr. Parsons lays a good foundation for demanding more efficient public control than has yet been exercised in the United States. If some means is not devised to stop discrimination and put public interest above private interest at the points where they clash, the public ownership which Mr. Parsons suggests in this book and has long advocated elsewhere will continue to gain adherents.

WILLIAM HILL

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The English Patents of Monopoly. By WILLIAM HYDE PRICE.
Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1906. 8vo, pp. x+261.

Dr. Price's *English Patents of Monopoly* constitutes the initial volume of a new series of economic studies published under the